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Cteisella flava, a new species from Mato Grosso, Brazil (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Cassidinae)

LECH BOROWIEC

Zoological Institute, University of Wrocław, Przybyszewskiego 63/77, 51-148 Wrocław, Poland,
e-mail: cassidae@biol.uni.wroc.pl

ABSTRACT. *Cteisella flava*, a new species is described from Mato Grosso, Brazil. It differs from all species of the genus *Cteisella* WEISE in uniformly yellow body, including legs and antennae.

Key words: entomology, taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae, Cassidinae, *Cteisella*, Brazil.

The genus *Cteisella* WEISE, 1896 comprises 20 species distributed in the Neotropical Region from Panama to N Argentina (BOROWIEC 1999, BOROWIEC and ŚWIĘTOJAŃSKA 2002). It was revised by SPAETH (1926), only one species was described after the revision (SPAETH 1932). In the revision the genus was divided into three subgenera: *Cteisella* sensu stricto, *Ctenocassida* SPAETH, 1926 and *Ctenocharidotis* SPAETH, 1926. BOROWIEC (1999) raised *Ctenocassida* Sp. and *Ctenocharidotis* Sp. to the genus rank. All these genera are well characterized by pectinate claws of all legs.

In the material studied recently I found a new species of *Cteisella* WEISE collected in Mato Grosso, Brazil. Its description is given below.

Cteisella flava n. sp.

ETYMOLOGY

Latin “*flavus*” means yellow. Named after uniformly yellow body.

DIAGNOSIS

Cteisella flava n. sp. belongs to the group of species with base of elytra not or only slightly wider than pronotum. Only five species of the group have uniformly yellow dorsum: *C. indecorata* (BOHEMAN, 1855), *C. intricata* SPAETH, 1926, *C. tama* SPAETH, 1926, *C. virescens* (BOHEMAN, 1855), and *C. flava* n. sp. *Cteisella intricata* distinctly differs in sparse elytral puncturation with interspaces slightly elevated thus elytra appear slightly irregular and puncturation appears partly irregular, while in all remaining species elytral rows are completely regular, punctures dense, interspaces not elevated, and surface of elytra completely regular. *Cteisella flava* differs from three remaining congeners in uniformly yellow antennae (in *C. virescens* five, in *C. tama* and *C. indecorata* four apical segments are black), oval body (rather circular in related species), and small size, with length below 4.8 mm (5.5-6.5 mm in related species). *C. flava* is distinctly less convex than *C. virescens*, *C. tama*, and *C. indecorata*.



1-2. *Cteisella flava* n. sp.: 1 - dorsal, 2 - lateral (photo digitally prepared)

DESCRIPTION

Length: 4.7 mm, width: 3.5 mm, length of pronotum: 1.7 mm, width of pronotum: 2.75 mm, length/width ratio: 1.340, width/length ratio of pronotum: 1.62. Body oval (Fig. 1).

Body uniformly yellow, including legs and antennae, only apex of last antennal segment infusate.

Pronotum regularly elliptical, with maximum width in the middle, sides rounded. Disc moderately convex, indistinctly bordered from explanate margin, with area above head not separated from central part of disc. Surface of disc very fine and sparse punctate, appears almost impunctate, interspaces shiny. From anterior corner of scutellum runs short, oblique, shallow furrow. Explanate margin broad, its surface completely regular, shiny, only basal part with several very fine punctures. Honeycomb structure distinct.

Scutellum triangular, impunctate, slightly impressed in the middle, with short transverse sulcus. Base of elytra only slightly wider than pronotum, sides of elytra only slightly rounded (Fig. 1). Humeri distinctly protruding anterad, obtuse. Anterior margin of elytron simple, without crenulation. Disc in profile regularly convex, with top of convexity slightly before the middle (Fig. 2). No postscutellar impressions, principal impression absent but principal area marked by a few punctures slightly larger than punctures in other parts of disc. Puncturation of disc completely regular, coarse and dense, distance between punctures in rows narrower than diameter of puncture, partly punctures touching each other. Intervals in sutural half of disc twice to thrice wider than rows, on sides of disc as wide as rows. Marginal row distinct, its punctures approximately thrice coarser than punctures in the submarginal row. Marginal interval broad, twice wider than central intervals. Explanate margin of elytra moderately declivous, narrow, approximately as wide as 1/6 width of disc. Surface of explanate margin regular, impunctate, shiny. Apex of elytral epipleura glabrous.

Head moderately broad, eyes large, gena very short. Clypeus 1.5 times as wide as long, clypeal lines indistinct. Clypeal plate flat, only apex shallowly impressed, surface of clypeus shiny, with a few fine punctures. Labrum emarginate to 1/3 length. Prosternal process slightly expanded apically, along middle and on apex regularly elevated, with no special sculpture.

Antennae stout, segments 8-10 slightly longer than wide. Length ratio of antennal segments: 100:41:38:53:47:41:50:44:44:84, segment 3 slightly shorter than segment 2, segment 4 approximately 1.4 times as long as segment 3. Five basal segments narrow and shiny, six distal segment broad, pubescent, dull. All claws pectinate, pecten long, extending to 3/4 length of claw.

MATERIAL EXAMINED

Holotype: Brazil, Mato Grosso, Chapada Plateau, XI 1965, native collector (preserved at the Department of Biodiversity and Evolutionary Taxonomy, Wrocław University, Wrocław, Poland).

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